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THE POWER AND SURETY OF PROPHECY

Sacrament Meeting, Bluffdale, Utah - 17 May 1999

Owen A. Allred

Now, brothers and sisters, I'm going to take what time I want to take today and talk to you on a certain important topic. We are losing one child after another because they want to go to the Church. They want to take the path of least resistance. I want to talk to you for a few minutes, and I hope and pray that you will listen. And you young folks, and anyone else, who want to find fault and criticise, have at it with all your hearts and minds - and God have mercy on you!

I am going to talk to you on the word of God today, and I'm going to hit it hard, the best way I know how. I'm going to try my best today to hit a subject that I hope will get through to you, to your spirits, so that you will wake up to the realisation of who we are and what our responsibilities are.

The Lord speaks many times of the power of prophecy, the surety of prophecy, the positive knowledge of prophecy. And that's what I am going to talk to you about today.

Clear back in the beginning of time, before you can remember it, in the days of Adam, prophecy was exemplified. It was lifted up to all of us as to its importance.

Dear father Abraham was given the opportunity, the privilege, the honour of prophesying of the great things that would take place here upon the earth. Moses prophesied - oh, my goodness, what he prophesied, not only forward, but backwards. But typically, all that the human family did was to find fault and to criticise.

Many of you say you have read the Bible. What is the Old Testament? It is nothing more nor less than a history of the House of Israel. It's not the history of this earth or the people who lived on it, but the history of just one family, the House of Israel. All through, from beginning to end, I don't care what part of it you go into, you will find prophecy. The prophets arose and spoke. They said, "Now, my dear ones, if you don't do what you are supposed to do, God is going to do such and such." And every time, not once in awhile, but every time, they ignored the prophets because they had the wisdom of the world. They had the wonderful wisdom of the world that could tell them what they wanted to hear. And they heard it! They always listened to that beautiful, wonderful voice of Lucifer when he told the children of Adam and Eve, "Believe it not!" And they believed it not. Is this also true today?

Many of us today want to follow the false counsel of, "Don't believe what the prophets tell you, because they have a rough road for you to walk over. Take off your shoes and walk barefoot on the soft carpet. Don't put on your boots -and walk in the gravel. Take it easy. I'll teach you a gospel that's sweet and nice to hear, and it will put a crown on you so that you can be proud of who you are."

My dear ones, you can go through that wonderful Bible from beginning to end and find that same lesson repeated over and over,

the power and the surety of prophecy. God has made a statement through his prophet, and I want you to listen to this and listen to it carefully: "Surely the Lord God will do nothing, until he revealeth the secret unto his servants the prophets"1. How many of you pay any attention to that today? How many of them in the ages past paid any attention? The prophets have been told what's going to happen, and they try to tell us, but we turn our backs on them and say, "I don't believe it!"

So many among us say, "Here is a wonderful, wise, educated man. Look how intelligent he is, look at how he is able to speak and influence us. He has a better philosophy, let's go his way." And they go down the skids. What has happened to the House of Israel over and over again? Yet, they've never to this day learned that God knows what he is talking about. He tries his best to warn you and to warn me and to warn our forefathers, clear back to Moses and to all the House of Israel. They have said, "I want you to hear what I have to say and warn you as to the outcome if you don't pay attention!" And we turn our backs on it and say, "We don't believe it, we don't believe it." Or, actually, "We don't want it."

The Saviour gave us one of the most perfect examples we ever could ask for on earth. The Lord and the apostles were walking one day and Jesus saw a man "which was blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents; but that the works of God should be made manifest in him"2. Prophecy about Christ was being fulfilled, and the disciples marvelled: "He's blind, he's never been able to see, and you've healed him and he can see!" The disciples wanted to know at first why he was born blind. Was it because of some sin he had committed? Was it because of the sins of his parents? What was the answer the Saviour gave? Every one of you ought to know - it was to fulfil prophecy. Why? Because at least one of God's prophets said, "And in that day, he will heal the blind, restore the sick, raise the dead from their graves," etc. Over 50 times in the Old Testament, it was prophesied when the Saviour would come - yes, when the Saviour would come, how he would come, where he would come, and all about it. And over and over the prophets talked about it. But when he came, "Oh, we don't believe it. We want a Saviour our way, according to our thinking. He isn't what we want, so we'll crucify him." Can you see that? You bet you can see it. You can look back through the pages of time, and you can look back through the old Bible and listen to history, and you can hear it. You can even hear it in your own ears, the ears of your spirit, the crying of the prophets, "Please listen, listen!" But we heed it not.

Now, let's turn over to that wonderful book we call the Book of Mormon. That is one of the most wonderful storybooks you've ever read in your life, if you want to sit down and read it for the value of listening to a good story. And what is that story? It's the story of God's prophets. Over and over again they speak and tell the people what is going to happen if they don't do this and that. Right from the beginning, Lehi said, "If you don't do what God tells us to do, you are going to be destroyed."

Even after the Saviour came upon the earth, "If you don't keep my commandments, if you don't walk in obedience to my laws and ordinances, I will have to destroy you, I'll have to take you off the face of the earth." "Oh, but Saviour, we love you but we don't believe that. Look! We have lawyers here, wonderful and educated lawyers3. They've been to school, they are knowledgeable. Saviour, did you even go to grade school? Are you even a high school graduate? Why should we believe you? We believe the educated

lawyers!"

Do any of you know anything about what happened to the American Indians -or the Israelites on this American continent? You should know all about it if you know the Book of Mormon. They repeatedly and repeatedly said, "We don't believe it, Lord. We don't believe the prophecies that these prophets say you gave, we don't believe your prophets here on the earth."

Now we come to a problem: Who is God's prophet? How do you know he is a prophet of God? One little, simple key - "By their fruits or their works ye shall know them." They will teach the same principles and the same doctrines and perform the same ordinances as the prophets did who went before them, and they will also be living every one of them. Will you please remember that little phrase - "By their fruits ye shall know them." Please remember it.

The true prophets of God will always teach the same gospel, the same principles and ordinances as those who went before them. Somewhere along the line of succession, the living prophet didn't follow the living prophet. We are all familiar with what the Prophet Joseph Smith said, "If any man teach any other gospel than that which I have preached unto you, let him be accursed"⁴. Orson Pratt was very specific when he said, "The same gospel that was preached by the apostles was also preached by the ancient patriarchs and antediluvians. The same gospel that was preached in the days of the apostles is also now preached to the Latter-day Saints"⁵.

So to drop a principle or ordinance, or to alter them in any way, turns the gospel as restored by the Prophet Joseph into another gospel, into a different gospel. "Oh, but Joseph, you were a dumbbell! We have lawyers now who know a lot better than you do! You made mistakes! Brigham Young made mistakes! We have wonderful, wonderful, educated lawyers. The wisdom of the world. The arm of flesh. But Christ himself said that if you want to follow the ways of the world, you can't possibly belong to him. He said something similar to this: "If you want peace and harmony with the world, you will not be my children. Any man who seeks to be of the world will turn his back on me. Over and over and over, we have done that. We've done it today, we're doing the same thing right now. As King Benjamin said, "For the natural [worldly] man is an enemy to God, and has been from the fall of Adam, and will be, forever and ever, unless he yields to the enticings of the Holy Spirit..."⁶. Also, the Apostle James said, "Know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God"⁷. The scriptures are very clear on this matter. John the Apostle said, "If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him"⁸.

A young couple came to talk to me Friday afternoon for nearly 3 hours, trying to convince me of how much more the lawyers know than the Prophet Joseph Smith did. "Do you believe the Prophet Joseph Smith was a false prophet?" "Oh, no, but he didn't understand what he was talking about. Can't you see what this person said? Can't you see what that person said?" and they showed me different quotations. Using those quotations, they think they have proof that the Church is right and we are wrong. They brought out a reference, which is that George Q. Cannon said it doesn't make any difference what words you use when you are conferring priesthood on someone, that you can use any method you want to. They are all the same. If you don't first confer priesthood but you confer office in the priesthood, it doesn't matter because it's the same as conferring priesthood. I don't know whether that is a true quotation from Brother Cannon or not, but they knew better in his

day, and we know better in our day.⁹

There was a prophecy about that earlier. The Prophet John Taylor, who presided over keys to priesthood, said in the eight hour meeting, "I would be surprised if ten percent of those who claim to hold the Melchizedek Priesthood will remain true and faithful to the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ." He added that at the time of the seventh president, "There will be thousands that think they hold the priesthood at that time, but would not have it properly conferred upon them"¹⁰. Now, who was in error and who was correct? Who was being led by the Holy Ghost to teach the same principles taught by the prophets who went before them? John Taylor knew the Prophet Joseph and knew his teachings, and he knew that the Prophet told him positively, "When you lay your hands upon a person's head to give them priesthood, you do it by the Spirit of the Holy Ghost and you confer priesthood on him first, and office second." You don't merely give him an office. Joseph F. Smith said, "The conferring of the priesthood should precede and accompany ordination to office, unless it be possessed by previous bestowal and ordination. Surely a man cannot possess an appendage to the priesthood without possessing the priesthood itself"¹¹. An important move was made by President David O. McKay in 1957, showing they had long been in error, and wherein the wording to confer priesthood before office was clarified at that time. This would leave 36 years of conferring only [an] office, fulfilling President John Taylor's prophecy.¹²

"Oh, but what does it matter? We have lawyers today who do the thinking." Brothers and sisters, we've had lawyers ever since the world began, the educated people of the world. They say you don't need faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, you don't need faith in God the Father, all you have to do is follow the living lawyers, the learned men of the world. I sat on a bus one time, and a man was talking to the bus driver. He said, "I think we're getting close to the time when the Saviour is coming. I'll be glad to see him come, but do you know something? He is going to have to abide by Church rule, and if he doesn't, I'll help to crucify him again!" We have to be careful. We should not think Church rule presides over God. But that's exactly what is going on. I read an article just yesterday where the man says, "If the One Mighty and Strong comes to set the House of God in order - it's been prophesied, that's true!¹³, but he's going to have to go through the right process to do it. He's going to have to come through the Presidency of the Church and get their permission and direction. That's pretty good, isn't it? That's where things have gone. My little 3 year old grandson, Shawn, will you come up and tell your Daddy when he has the right to correct you? That's just about the sense of it.

It doesn't work that way, brothers and sisters. Prophecy for the latter-days is true, prophecies in the Bible and elsewhere. The Bible is full of prophecies - the beautiful prophet, Daniel, for instance. And above all, search ye the works of Isaiah. Over and over the Book of Mormon speaks of Isaiah. The Prophet Joseph spoke of the prophet Isaiah. "Oh, I believe the prophet Isaiah was a true prophet, but he couldn't possibly be speaking of us, when he said that in the last days they would change the ordinances and break the new and everlasting covenant. Certainly not us!"¹⁴ But who else has the covenants and can break them?

Isaiah also warned that we will say, "For we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves"¹⁵, and going on further to describe our condition: "For the bed is shorter than that a man can stretch himself on it; and the covering narrower than that he can wrap himself in it"¹⁶. We most certainly have gotten to that

point. We demanded a Manifesto, we've changed ordinances, but we say, "Oh, Isaiah couldn't be speaking about us." Are we saying, "Well, he's talking about the Mormons, but it couldn't be us, because we're perfect?"

Now, I'm going to be just like dear Alma in the Book of Mormon. Oh, I would to God that I had the power of an angel and could stand on a housetop and scream to the people!¹⁷ "Prophecy is going to be fulfilled, dear ones! O, House of Israel! you people who call yourselves the children of God, the followers of Jesus Christ, repent! lest you blaspheme against him and place yourselves upon a pedestal, that you think you are greater than the prophets who went before you. O, you people, why can't you hear what is being told to you! Why can't you see what you are doing? You have ears, but you can't hear. You have eyes, but you can't see, and you have hearts but no understanding!" No, I can't holler at the people, they'd throw me in prison if I tried to talk to them like that.

But I can talk to you! When they come to you and say, "Believe it not! Don't believe in prophecy! Prophecy will fail you!" where do you stand? Show me one prophecy given by a prophet of God that has not been fulfilled, and I'll tell you right now you will never see one that is not fulfilled. The Prophet Joseph Smith, the Prophet John Taylor, the Prophet Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball, those wonderful men who proved by their works who they were and who they followed, they prophesied pertaining to you and to me, in this year 1999, of the things that were coming before the dreadful scenes of the Lord's judgement come upon this people. They made it very clear, and we are without excuse.

Do you think it's not going to happen? Well, just don't hold your breath, because it will happen. The judgements of God will fall upon us who call ourselves Mormon people, just as sure as there is a God in Heaven. We are going to be cleansed. And the prophecies of my beloved Joseph White Musser¹⁸ will be fulfilled to the iota - and I know it. If this people don't straighten out and become what they ought to be, there's only going to be a handful left when the Saviour comes. That is prophecy.

Then we come back again to these wonderful lawyers - "Oh, but the Saviour won't come until he gets my permission." That's just about what they are telling you since they've taken over command of the world. "He won't come until he gets my permission!" That's the kind of doctrine we want to believe.

Oh, you young folks who have my dear brother Rulon's sons coming to you and showing you these wonderful works of the lawyers - excuse my favourite name for them, "the liars" - who come to you and say, "Look! Look! Look! Look at these wonderful teachings. They disagree with the teachings of Joseph and Brigham and John!" Now, which ones do you want to follow? You'd better follow them if you want to be in harmony with Church rule.

Brothers and sisters, God sent us here on this earth to live by faith. We were not sent here to be given proof on paper of everything, line upon line, detail upon detail, as a lawyer would want you to have. They want everything put down, documents of everything that went on and was ever said. We Mormon people don't believe the Prophet Joseph Smith saw the Saviour and God the Father in the grove, no sir. We can't believe that, it was never documented. Now, that's the doctrine of the lawyers and of those who don't really want the truth. Everything isn't documented, but do they teach that? Oh no, they don't want to touch that part of it, because, "If we do it cuts into our pocketbooks. We wouldn't get our wages if we tried to openly deny

Mormonism. But we just want to change all the things we can change to be popular with the world and make profit out of it."

The Prophet Joseph Smith was told by the Lord in the Sacred Grove, "They teach for doctrine the precepts of men, having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof." The idea is to get personal gain. Many pretend they are representing Jesus Christ - for gain. And what is gain? It's money. A fellow on the television the other day was talking about our dear President Clinton and saying how wonderfully honest he is. He has perjured himself against his own nation. He is guilty of adultery and many other crimes. The speaker said everything is fine and dandy, and you'd better believe it because he, Clinton, is the President [of the United States].

I am really broken-hearted. I know the gospel of Jesus Christ is true. I know that the priesthood is upon the earth. I know that when the Prophet Joseph said it would never be taken from the earth again¹⁹ or given to another people, that he was a prophet of God and that this prophecy would be fulfilled. I also know that Brigham Young said, "God will preserve a portion of this people, of the meek and the humble, to bear off the Kingdom to the inhabitants of the earth, and will defend his priesthood; for it is the last time, the last gathering time"²⁰. Also, Heber C. Kimball said, "The time will come when the Lord will choose a people out of this people upon whom he will bestow his choicest blessings"²¹. These will be those who have put righteousness to the fore, and they will be those who will welcome the Saviour. I believe those prophecies have come from true prophets of God. I believe those prophecies will be fulfilled - whether you qualify or not. It is not going to make one bit of difference to God himself whether you qualify or not, because it's going to be you who gets the blessing, not he. Remember, he will find those who will qualify themselves.

Brothers and sisters, we're going to have to qualify. God prophesied through his servants that this Mormon people will, many of them, go into apostasy. Who prophesied it? His prophets. We don't want to believe it, because it hits us right smack between the eyes! But it is true. The Church of Jesus Christ has definitely gone into apostasy. "You speak to me with your lips, but your hearts are far from me. You teach for doctrines the commandments of men. You claim that I have spoken to you, and I have not spoken to you. You lie when you say you are my people, when you believe me not."²² These statements, or those similar to them, are in the scriptures. Prophecy, prophecy, the sureness, the perfect pureness of the spirit of prophecy - why can't we hear that wonderful word again? People ask me if I am a prophet, and I will not answer that question. God alone can answer that. But by my works you will know, not because I have ever said I am - that wouldn't make one bit of difference. I am a servant of God only when I am serving him and not man or myself. And so it is with all of us.

Brothers and sisters, I've tried to talk to you on this subject of prophecy today, because I know it is important. I know I am a feeble, poor speaker, but I hope I have put the point over to you. Please, please pick up your scriptures and read them. Read The Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, that wonderful, wonderful book. Yes, the Church has changed it a little bit, but get an issue of the Teachings that is over 20 years or so old, and read it and see the prophecies he has made and whether they are fulfilled. If they are not yet fulfilled, believe me they will be fulfilled! And you can count on it.

Read the History of the Church, and read the teachings of that wonderful man, Brigham Young, his Discourses. I know he stood up

and hollered at the people and bawled them out and chastised them over and over. They needed it. Then he said, "I fear that when I am gone, this people will put aside those principles of the gospel that we consider so valuable."²³ He said he hoped that day never came, and then he turned around and said, "But it will happen." He said he feared that the people would put aside the principle of celestial plural marriage, "And if they do," he said, "the keys will be turned against us."²⁴ What keys? The keys that have the right to open the doors to the gates of heaven. Brigham Young was a man of God; he spoke for God. The Lord said that when his prophets speak, it is as though he himself had spoken.

Brigham Young prophesied that the people would go astray, that they would put righteousness aside and follow the precepts of men and the ways of the world. Has that happened? You bet it has.

John Taylor saw the picture when he said, "We are getting into such a condition that if we were to meet the Lord, we could not look him in the face, and the way we are going, it will soon be impossible to tell what we do believe"²⁵. Dear John Taylor, bless his heart, how he did hit the same subjects as the prophets before him. How he did weep over the sins of the people. How he did cry to heaven, "Father in Heaven, why does this have to happen, why do the people have to be so dark-minded? Why do they turn against righteousness and want the things of the world?"

The attitude today is still, "Let's do away with the things in the gospel that the world doesn't like, the things that we're being persecuted for. I don't want to lose my home, I don't want to lose my family or my job. I don't want to be driven and chased from one place to another. Father in Heaven, please put me at peace with the world." When did God ever at any time put his people at peace with the world? Didn't he say the world, worldliness, is his enemy? Peace with the world—people have always cried for it and sought it. Put me in harmony with the world. But, "If ye are of the world, ye are not mine."²⁶ And so it is.

Dear ones, prophecy has told us that we have a mission to fulfil. We have a mission. And God is going to fulfil that prophecy and mission, whether I do it, or you do it, or somebody else does it. But somebody is going to have to live the fullness of the gospel in every respect, live all of the laws and ordinances of the restored gospel, before God can use them - or God himself is not a Prophet!

I hope you've heard what I have said, brothers and sisters, because we are under great condemnation if we turn aside from the prophecies of God and say they will not be fulfilled because the lawyers say they won't. I say, to hell with the lawyers because that's where they are going to end up anyway for their self-seeking and turning against the Spirit of God. That's exactly what is going to happen in this old world of ours.

We are going to have calamities come upon us. You are going to see the mountains east of you shaken until they crumble. You are going to see this world of ours shaken and blown and twisted and turned in many, many places, because God has predicted that these things will happen. There will be a few places in Salt Lake that will not be scratched or turned, because God has predicted it through his prophets. And again, those prophecies spoken by those prophets will be fulfilled to the letter.

So you can look for those things. But, dear brethren and sisters, please also know that the prophecies pertaining to the cleansing of God's House, and the setting of things in order, particularly of

punishing this nation for the terrible things they have done against God's people, are also going to be fulfilled. Even though it was prophesied that it would happen, Wo unto them by whom those prophecies are fulfilled. That sounds funny, maybe, but nevertheless, God raised up people to fulfil prophecy -wicked, wicked men and women to fulfil prophecy. And so it is.

The United States of America is going to be bathed in blood. That's not a nice sight, not a nice thing to see. It's not a nice thing at all to see children lying in the street, dying, and see your loved ones bleeding to death. Oh, war is a horrible, horrible thing. We have never tasted it in the State of Utah, we've never tasted what war is today. But we will have that taste to our hearts' content. And we will know what God can do. We will say, "God, you can't do this to me, because I'm such a good boy, a Latter-day Saint. I pay my tithing, I go to Church, I sit down every Sunday and listen to the choir, and I definitely watch television every time I get a chance. Such we are.

Brothers and sisters, I hope and pray we will come out of the darkness that we, as a little group of people known as Fundamentalists, are in - let's come closer than that - the Allred Group²⁷. I don't like that name, and yet I didn't put it on this group, somebody else did and if God wants it to stay there, I guess it will stay there. But I hope that those Allred boys, Rulon²⁸, Owen and Marvin, will live up to that good name and lead this people in righteousness as long as they possibly can.

Brothers and sisters, I've said enough. Again, I want to plead with you to please study prophecy and see what is going to happen. And then, for goodness sakes, be ready for it. Build your homes like you are going to stay there forever. But be ready to leave on a day's notice. That is prophecy, my brothers and sisters.

God bless you. Amen.

1 J.S.T., Amos 3:7.

2 John 9:1-3.

3 Whilst in the Bible the term lawyer doesn't always specifically refer to those involved in dealing with civil law, when the scriptures do deal with the legal profession it is almost always negatively (see Luke 1:46,52 & Alma 10:13-15). The Presidents of the Church from Joseph to Joseph F. Smith have also been against the Saints becoming or being involved with lawyers (see Teachings, p. 329, History 7:258 etc.). However, an extraordinary number of General Authorities since that time have had law degrees (see Church Almanac).

4 History of the Church, vol. 6, p. 365.

5 Journal of Discourses, vol. 12, p. 246.

6 Mosiah 3:19.

7 James 4:4.

8 1 John 2:15.

9 The couple were undoubtedly quoting from the anti-Mormon-Fundamentalist writings of Brian C. Hales. A response to his views is included in this issue as an addendum to the "Last prophecies of John Taylor" article.